

work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Francisca Vasquez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Francisca Vasquez for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding a missed vote due to attending a friend's funeral. Had I been present for roll call vote number 118, On Passage to the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act, I would have voted "nay." Had I been present for roll call vote number 119, On Passage to the 504 Credit Risk Management Improvement Act, I would have voted "yea."

APRIL VETERAN OF THE MONTH

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the First District of Oklahoma's April Veteran of the Month, Willie Braggs.

Willie Braggs is a retired Air Force officer and Vice Wing Commander of the 138th Fighter Wing of the Oklahoma Air National Guard. His service included two combat tours in the Middle East. Colonel Braggs faithfully served our country for over thirty years and continues to give back to his community and fellow veterans.

He is involved with the Jenks Public School System as their assistant webmaster and varsity photographer for their athletic department. As the father of two Jenks graduates, he is a long-time parent volunteer. Colonel Braggs currently sits on the board of directors for the Coffee Bunker, a non-profit organization that helps service members transition to civilian life. He is a man of impeccable integrity who has dedicated his life to serving others.

He answered the call to defend freedom across the globe and sacrificed whatever was necessary in the name of that noble cause. It is my honor to recognize Willie Braggs as the first Congressional District of Oklahoma's April Veteran of the Month.

HONORING MRS. DELLA
MCCAUGHAN

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Della McCaughan who passed away on February 4, 2021 at the age of 92. I send my condolences and prayers to her family and friends.

Born and raised in Pass Christian Mississippi, Della was the youngest child in her family and was honored to claim the Mississippi Gulf Coast as her lifelong home.

Mrs. McCaughan was a teacher in the Biloxi Public School System for 44 years. She was the first person in the nation to teach Marine Biology at the high school level. Additionally, she wrote the first textbook to be used for that purpose.

Della loved teaching and believed in her students, helping them realize their potential. Della was the recipient of many awards. Some of her most valued awards include: Shell Meritt Fellowship, Mother of the Year, and Teacher of the Year. She was awarded an Einstein Congressional Fellowship to work in the U.S. Senate as an educational advisor, and in 1994, received a commendation through Senate Concurrent Resolution Number 578, whereby the Mississippi State Legislature recognized her outstanding career and meritorious service during her years as an educator.

Although we are saddened by her passing, we take comfort in her example of a life well lived and the legacy she leaves behind to all the young lives she touched. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Mississippi, we honor the memory of Mrs. Della McCaughan, a loving teacher, mother, wife, and woman of God.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF SCOT AMES, JR.

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Lt. Scot Ames, Jr. who passed away on a pilot training mission on February 19, 2021. I join his family and his squadron in mourning his loss.

Scot grew up in Pekin, Indiana and attended Eastern High School. He was an athlete and outdoorsman. Before graduating, he earned his Private Pilots License. He attended Indiana State University, where he was an active member of the ISU Bass Fishing Team. He studied Aviation Management and met his wife Audra. The two met almost three years ago and were married in the Fall of 2020.

Scot was known by his squadron for his love of flying. When he was young, he spoke of one day becoming a pilot in the United States Air Force. He was dedicated to his students as an instructor pilot and he impacted countless lives throughout his career.

Left to cherish Scot's memory are his wife, Audra Dial Ames; parents Ginger Bailey and Scot Wayne Ames; sister, Courtney; nieces Fe-

licity and Gwen; nephew Evan; and countless loved ones.

I join my fellow Mississippians in mourning the loss of a talented and dedicated young pilot. He will be deeply missed.

EMMA ARVIZO-AGUIRRE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emma Arvizo-Aguirre for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Emma Arvizo-Aguirre is a 12th grader at MESA and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Emma Arvizo-Aguirre is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Emma Arvizo-Aguirre for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING JOSEPH CHERUP, JR.

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine and a true American hero from Fenton, Michigan—Mr. Joseph Cherup, Jr.

Throughout the course of his life, Mr. Cherup has worn many hats in the service of his nation, his community, and his family. While serving his country in Korea, he proudly wore the cap of an Army captain. As an officer at the Koje Do POW prison, Mr. Cherup was instrumental in negotiating the successful release of General Francis Dodd when he was held hostage for three days.

When Mr. Cherup returned home, he wore the hat of an engineer. He has owned several businesses and was a founding member of the Leelanau Conservancy, Traverse City Condominiums, Custom Electric, Revolution DC, Kolene Corporation, and Trade Winds Bar in Detroit.

But beyond his honorable service and his achievements in business, at his core, Mr. Cherup is simply a kind man who has helped take care of others.

When he was 21 years old, his father, Joseph Sr. passed away, leaving him to care for his mother, Rose, and his younger sister, Delores. In 1984, his mother moved in with him in Fenton so he could take better care of her, which he did until she passed away in 2007.

His entire life, Mr. Cherup has generously donated his time and his money to charities and causes that help others. He has worn